

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on June 24, 2004 in which Claims 22-40 were rejected. With this Reply, paragraph [0033] of the Specification, Figure 4 and Figure 10 are amended. Claims 22-40 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

I. Objection to the Drawings.

Page 2 of the Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a). In particular, page 2 of the Office Action requested that the motor-driven output gear and the pivotal motor output gear support be shown or cancelled from the claims. In response, Figure 10 of the drawings is amended to schematically illustrate a motor-driven output gear 293 and the pivotal motor output gear support 297. Figure 10 specifically illustrates pivoting of the support 297 into and out of engagement with surface 322 of retainer 320 such that motor output gear 293 moves into and out of engagement with input gear 291. Applicants respectfully note that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what a “gear” is. Applicants respectfully note that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what a “support” for a gear is. In particular, a support for a gear is a member which supports the gear. The claims do not require any specific structure for the support. Rather, the claims merely state that the support engages the cylindrical surface 322 when gear 293 is engaged to gear 291. Figure 10, as amended, illustrates what is described and supported in originally filed paragraph [0033] of the Specification. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added.

II. Objection to the Specification.

Page 3 of the Office Action objected to the Specification as failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In particular, page 3 of the Office Action referred to Claims 22-24 which contain the limitation of a motion limiter.

Applicants respectfully note that the claimed motion limiter refers to the surface 322 of retainer 320 shown in Figure 10 and described in originally filed paragraph [0033]. Paragraph [0033], as originally filed, recited that:

The retainer 320 has an arcuate, preferably cylindrical, surface 322 adjacent to the input gear 291 in a position such that the cylindrical surface 322 will be engaged by a motor output support . . . and thus prevents over engagement of the motor output gear and the input gear 291.

Claims 22-24 recite:

A motion limiter having an arcuate surface mounted on such shaft proximate said input gear for engagement of said arcuate surface with a pivotal motor output gear support to prevent over engagement of teeth on said output gear and said input gear.

To further clarify where support may be found for the recited “motion limiter” in Claims 22-24, paragraph [0033] of the Specification is amended to recite that the cylindrical surface 322 “acts as a motion limiter by engaging motor output gear support.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter of Claims 22-24 be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 22, 26 and 39 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph.

Page 3 of the Office Action rejected Claims 22, 26 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In particular, the Office Action asserted that “From what is contained in the application, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to understand how to make a motion limiter with an arcuate surface which engages a pivotal support to prevent over engagement of the teeth of gears.” With this Reply, Figure 10 and paragraph [0033] of the Specification are amended. Figure 10, as amended, illustrates an input gear 291 and an arcuate surface 322 which acts as a motion limiter by engaging a schematically shown output gear support 297 when support 297 is pivoted so as to bring output gear 293 into meshing engagement with

input gear 291. As discussed above with respect to the objection to the drawings, one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand what is meant by the term "gear". One of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand what is meant by the term "gear support". One of ordinary skill in the art would understand how a gear support would pivot to move a gear into engagement with another gear. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand how to pivot such a support such that the support engages cylindrical surface 322 shown in Figure 10 while also positioning gear 293 into meshing engagement with gear 291. Finally, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what over engagement of gear teeth means. Based upon the description provided in the Specification and Figure 10, one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to construct a support such that the support engages surface 322 while positioning gear 293 into proper engagement with gear 291 without undue experimentation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 22, 26 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 22, 26 and 39 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph.

Page 4 of the Office Action rejected Claims 22, 26 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, the Office Action asserted that it is unclear what the pivotal support is, how the arcuate surface engages the pivotal support and what over engagement is. Applicants respectfully note that a pivotal support is simply a structure that supports the gear and that pivots as the term implies. The recitation that the pivotal support engages the arcuate surface means that the structure contacts or abuts the arcuate surface 322. This contact would inherently stop further pivoting of the support so as to insure proper positioning of gears 293 and 291 with respect to one another and prevent over engagement of their teeth. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand what "over engagement" of teeth means. In particular, "over engagement" of teeth means that the teeth are not properly aligned with one another and not properly

intermeshed. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 22, 26 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn in light of these clarifying remarks.

Page 4 of the Office Action stated that it was unclear “How the arcuate surface engages the pivotal support in order to disengage the gears (especially if the arcuate surface is cylindrical (see e.g. claim 5))”. Applicants respectfully note that neither Claim 22, Claim 26 nor Claim 39 recites that the arcuate surface engages the pivotal support in order to **disengage** the gears. Moreover, Applicants respectfully note that Claim 5 has been cancelled and is no longer pending.

V. Amendments to Figure 4.

With this Reply, Figure 4 is further amended to correct the angular orientation of slots 58 and 72 as shown in Figure 4 on the attached amended drawing sheet. A replacement sheet including the amended Figure 4 also filed herewith. Support for this amendment is found in Figures 7, 14 and 16A-I through 16-E-3. Thus, no new matter is believed to have been added. In addition, a letter to the official draftsman with annotated drawing sheets of Figures 4 and 10 and replacement sheets of Figures 4 and 10 are also being filed herewith.

VI. Conclusion.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraph [0033] has been amended on page 8.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Sept. 9, 2004

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Please amend Figures 4 and 10 as indicated in red and circled on the attached annotated drawing sheet. Replacement drawing sheets including Figures 4 and 10 are also being filed herewith.



Title: REPLACEABLE ROLLER
BOGIE FOR DOCUMENT
FEEDING APPARATUS
Inventor(s): Glenn Gaarder et al.
Appl. No.: 10/633,126

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ANNOTATED DRAWING SHEET

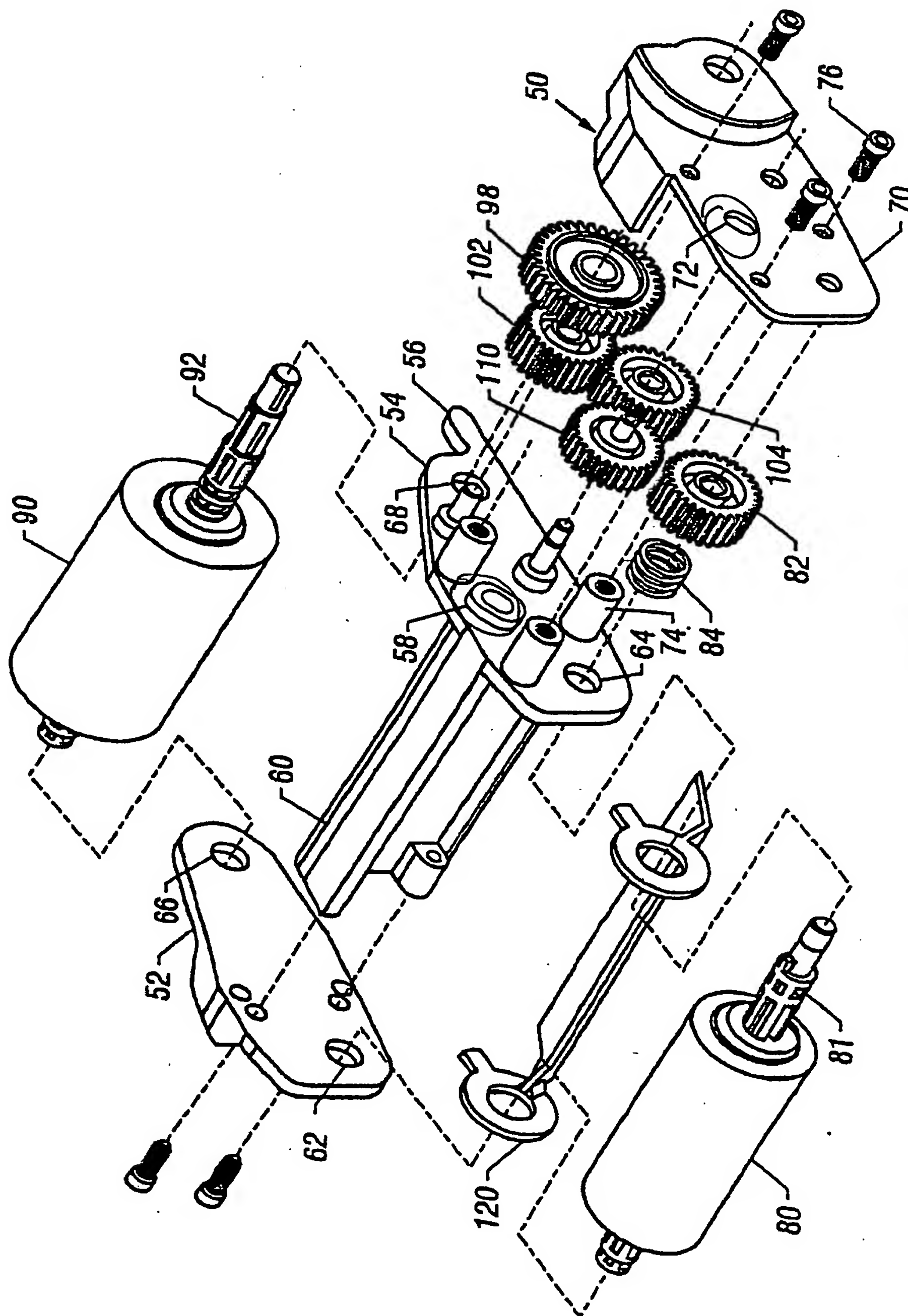


FIG. 4



Title: REPLACEABLE ROLLER
BOGIE FOR DOCUMENT
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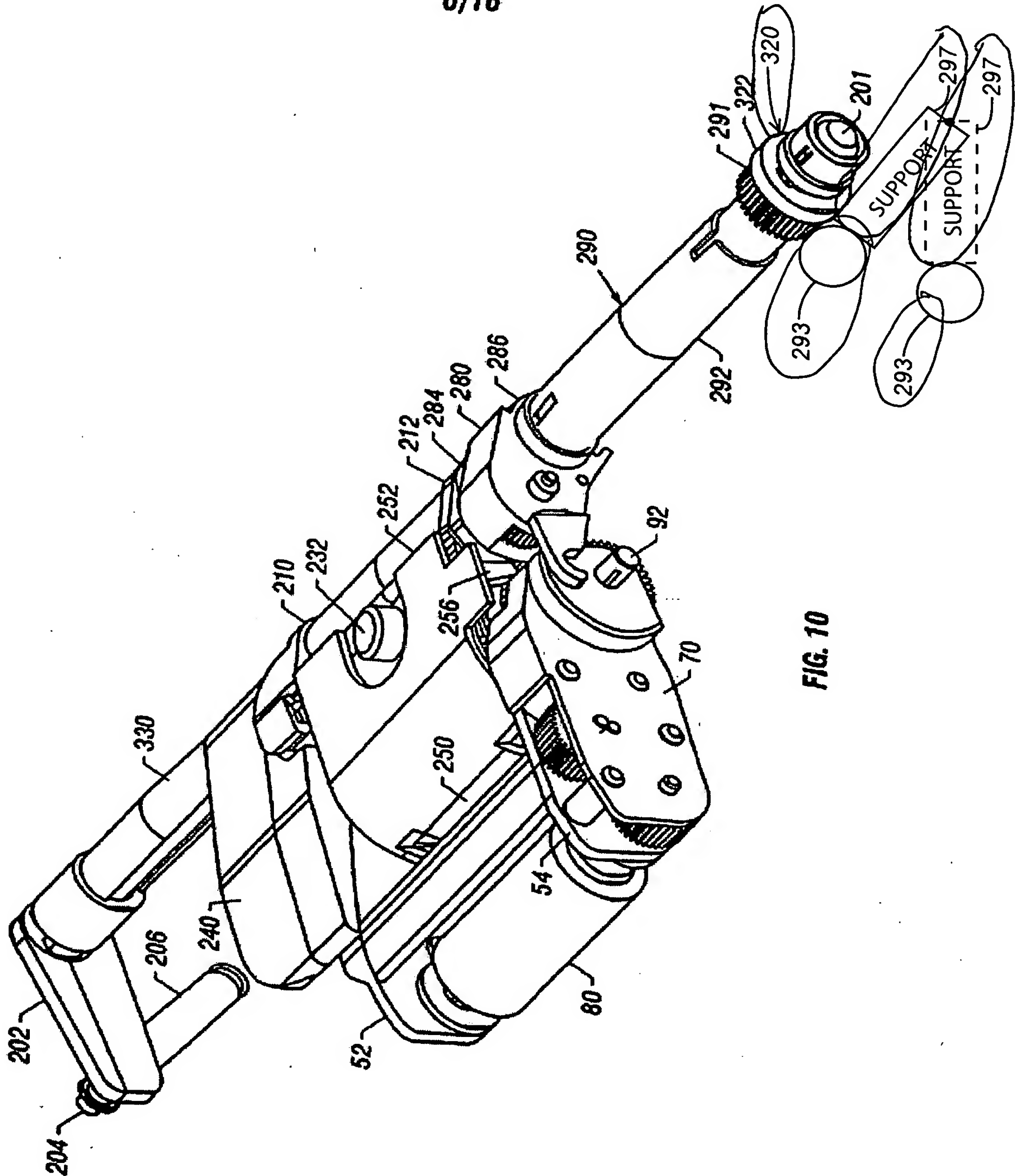


FIG. 10